



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/538,840

03/01/2006

Joachim Schmitt

SCHM3001/REF

8834

23364 7590 09/30/2008

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 SLATERS LANE
FOURTH FLOOR
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1176

EXAMINER

SWARTZ, RODNEY P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1645

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/30/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' Response to Final Office Action, received 21 July 2008, is acknowledged.

However, the claim amendments raise new issues and therefore will not be entered. The new issues are:

- (1) Proposed amendments of claims 33 and 32 would result in a new claim objection under 37 CFR 1.75 as being substantial duplicates. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). As proposed, the claims would both read on "The isolated trans-sialidase of claim 32, characterized by at least one of the following characteristics", with embodiments being the same Temperature optimum, or pH optimum, or molecular weight.
- (2) Proposed amendment of claim 45 lists the first group as "c" and the second group as "b", i.e., out of order and without a group labeled "a".

Conclusion

2. The proposed response will not be entered.
3. No claims are allowed.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D., Art Unit 1645, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM EST. Thursday is the examiner's work at home day.

Art Unit: 1645

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact the Examiner's Supervisors, Shannon Foley (571)272-0898, and Robert B. Mondesi (571)272-0956.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Rodney P. Swartz, Ph.D./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1645

October 1, 2008